

Will be doing and will have done

A

Study this example situation:

These people are standing in a queue to get into the cinema.



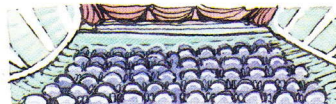
now

Half an hour from now, the cinema will be full.
Everyone **will be watching** the film.



half an hour from now

Three hours from now, the cinema will be empty.
The film **will have finished**.
Everybody **will have gone** home.



three hours from now

B

I **will be doing** something (*future continuous*) = I will be in the middle of doing it:

- ☐ This time next week I'll be on holiday. I'll **be lying** on the beach or **swimming** in the sea.
- ☐ You have no chance of getting the job. You'll **be wasting** your time if you apply for it.

Compare **will be (do)ing** and **will (do)**:

- ☐ Don't phone between 7 and 8. We'll **be having** dinner.
- ☐ Let's wait for Liz to arrive and then we'll **have** dinner.

Compare **will be -ing** with other continuous forms:

- ☐ At 10 o'clock yesterday, Sally **was** in her office. She **was working**. (*past*)
It's 10 o'clock now. She **is** in her office. She **is working**. (*present*)
At 10 o'clock tomorrow, she **will be** in her office. She **will be working**.

C

We also use **will be -ing** in a different way: to talk about complete actions in the future.

For example:

- ☐ The government **will be making** a statement about the crisis later today.
- ☐ **Will you be going** away this summer?
- ☐ Later in the programme, I'll **be talking** to the Minister of Education ...
- ☐ Our best player is injured and **won't be playing** in the game on Saturday.



Later in the programme I'll be talking to ...

In these examples **will be -ing** is similar to (be) going to ...

D

We use **will have (done)** (*future perfect*) to say that something will already be complete before a time in the future. For example:

- ☐ Sally always leaves for work at 8.30 in the morning. She **won't be** at home at 9 o'clock – she'll **have gone** to work.
- ☐ We're late. The film **will already have started** by the time we get to the cinema.

Compare **will have (done)** with other perfect forms:

- ☐ Ted and Amy **have been** married for 24 years. (*present perfect*)
Next year they **will have been** married for 25 years.
When their son was born, they **had been** married for three years. (*past perfect*)

Exercises

Unit 24

24.1 Read about Colin. Then tick (✓) the sentences which are true. In each group of sentences at least one is true.

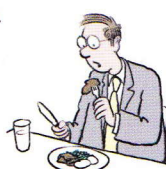
Colin goes to work every day. He leaves home at 8 o'clock and arrives at work at about 8.45. He starts work immediately and continues until 12.30 when he has lunch (which takes about half an hour). He starts work again at 1.15 and goes home at exactly 4.30. Every day he follows the same routine and tomorrow will be no exception.



At 7.45

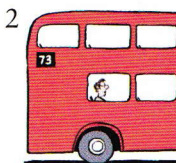
- a he'll be leaving the house
- b he'll have left the house
- c he'll be at home ✓
- d he'll be having breakfast ✓

4



At 12.45

- a he'll have lunch
- b he'll be having lunch
- c he'll have finished his lunch
- d he'll have started his lunch



At 8.15

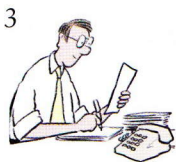
- a he'll be leaving the house
- b he'll have left the house
- c he'll have arrived at work
- d he'll be arriving at work

5



At 4 o'clock

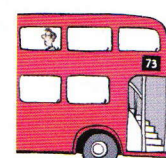
- a he'll have finished work
- b he'll finish work
- c he'll be working
- d he won't have finished work



At 9.15

- a he'll be working
- b he'll start work
- c he'll have started work
- d he'll be arriving at work

6



At 4.45

- a he'll leave work
- b he'll be leaving work
- c he'll have left work
- d he'll have arrived home

24.2 Put the verb into the correct form, will be (do)ing or will have (done).

- 1 Don't phone between 7 and 8. We'll be having (we / have) dinner then.
- 2 Phone me after 8 o'clock. (we / finish) dinner by then.
- 3 Tomorrow afternoon we're going to play tennis from 3 o'clock until 4.30. So at 4 o'clock, (we / play) tennis.
- 4 A: Can we meet tomorrow?
B: Yes, but not in the afternoon. (I / work).
- 5 B has to go to a meeting which begins at 10 o'clock. It will last about an hour.
A: Will you be free at 11.30?
B: Yes, (the meeting / end) by then.
- 6 Ben is on holiday and he is spending his money very quickly. If he continues like this, (he / spend) all his money before the end of his holiday.
- 7 Do you think (you / still / do) the same job in ten years' time?
- 8 Lisa is from New Zealand. She is travelling around Europe at the moment. So far she has travelled about 1,000 miles. By the end of the trip, (she / travel) more than 3,000 miles.
- 9 If you need to contact me, (I / stay) at the Lion Hotel until Friday.
- 10 A: (you / see) Laura tomorrow?
B: Yes, probably. Why?
A: I borrowed this CD from her. Can you give it back to her?